

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 7, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for making a plastic dry food container, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) forming a thin sheet comprising a layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol film that is less than 0.5 mils thick as an inner-most surface of the container and a layer of high density polyethylene as a second layer attached to said ethylene vinyl alcohol layer;
 - b) placing a dry food product within said container, wherein the dry food product comes into contact with the ethylene vinyl alcohol film and acts as a desiccant to draw moisture away from the ethylene vinyl alcohol film; and
 - c) sealing said container;wherein said layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol film provides an effective oxygen barrier to maintain freshness of said dry food product.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the EVOH layer is approximately 0.1 mils thick.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .6 upon the sealing of step c.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .4 upon the sealing of step c.

7. (Currently amended) A multi-layer plastic container comprising:
an inner-most layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol, said layer of ethylene-vinyl alcohol being less than 0.5 mils thick;
a second layer of high density polyethylene; and
a dry food product having desiccant properties sealed within said container;
wherein said layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol provides an effective oxygen barrier to maintain freshness of said dry food product.
8. (Original) The multi-layer plastic container of claim 7 wherein said dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .6.
9. (Original) The multi-layer plastic container of claim 7 wherein said dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .4.
10. (Previously presented) The multi-layer plastic container of claim 7 wherein said layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol is approximately 0.1 mils thick.
11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the high density polyethylene layer is attached to the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer by an adhesive layer interposed between the high density polyethylene layer and the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer.
12. (Previously presented) The multi-layer plastic container of Claim 7 wherein the high density polyethylene layer is attached to the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer by an adhesive layer interposed between the high density polyethylene layer and the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer.

13. (New) A method for making a plastic dry food container, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a thin sheet comprising a layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol film that is less than 0.1 mils thick as an inner-most surface of the container and a layer of high density polyethylene as a second layer attached to said ethylene vinyl alcohol layer;
- b) placing a dry food product within said container, wherein the dry food product comes into contact with the ethylene vinyl alcohol film and acts as a desiccant to draw moisture away from the ethylene vinyl alcohol film; and
- c) sealing said container;

wherein said layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol film provides an effective oxygen barrier to maintain freshness of said dry food product.

14. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .6 upon the sealing of step c.

15. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .4 upon the sealing of step c.

16. (New) A plastic dry food container containing a dry food product, said container being made by the method of claim 13.

17. (New) The plastic dry food container of claim 16 wherein said dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .6.

18. (New) The plastic dry food container of claim 16 wherein said dry food product comprises a water activity of less than .4.

19. (New) The plastic dry food container of Claim 16 wherein the high density polyethylene layer is attached to the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer by an adhesive layer interposed between the high density polyethylene layer and the ethylene vinyl alcohol layer.